

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial composition comprising
 - (1) a mixture of iodide anions and thiocyanate anions,
 - (2) periodic acid or a salt thereof, and
 - (3) at least ~~one polymer or~~ copolymer comprising as units
 - (a) 5 to 100 % by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer comprising nitrogen and/or phosphorous containing groups,
 - (b) ~~0 to 5~~ 0 to 95% by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated comonomer comprising acidic groups,
 - (c) 0 to 75 % by weight of at least one further comonomer, and
 - (d) 0 to 5 % by weight of crosslinking comonomers and
wherein there are at least two different units of (a).
2. (Original) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the amounts of the units of the copolymer are:
 - (a) 10 to 60 %,
 - (b) 20 to 70 %,
 - (c) 0 to 70 %, and
 - (d) 0 to 5 %.
3. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is a liquid composition.
4. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the liquid composition comprises a solvent of the composition and said solvent comprises at least 80% water.
5. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the concentrations of the components in the solution are
 - 0.01 to 100 mmol/l periodic acid or salts thereof,
 - 0.005 to 50 mmol/l iodide ions,
 - 0.005 to 50 mmol/l thiocyanate ions, and
 - 0.005 to 10 % by weight polymer or copolymer.

6. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises another biocidal active compound.
7. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the composition further comprises a surfactant or emulsifier and the liquid composition is an oil-in-water-emulsion or a surfactant based solution.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Previously presented) A microbicide for skin antiseptics; antimicrobial soaps; suntans; disinfection of medical equipment; treatment of swimming pools, air-conditioning processes; sanitation of accomodation for man; chemical toilets; treatment of sewage/waste, hospital infectious waste and soil or other substances; laundry; disinfection of animal housing/stables/machinery/footwear, hatcheries, means of transport; fish farming; floors, walls, and equipment in food processing plants; or the manufacture of aseptic packaging material which comprises the composition as claimed in claim 1.
11. (Previously presented) An active component which comprises the composition as claimed in claim 1.
12. (Previously presented) The active component as claimed in claim 11, wherein the active component is used in deodorants, antibacterial skin washes, anti-acne preparations, anti-athletes foot preparations, anti-dandruff preparations, dental preparations, impregnated materials, ophthalmic preparations or sterilants.
13. (New) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the copolymer comprises as monomer
(a) vinylimidazole and N-vinylpyrrolidone.
14. (New) An antimicrobial composition comprising

- (1) a mixture of iodide anions and thiocyanate anions,
- (2) periodic acid or a salt thereof, and
- (3) at least copolymer comprising as units
 - (a) 5 to 100 % by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer comprising nitrogen and/or phosphorous containing groups,
 - (b) 0 to 95 % by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated comonomer comprising acidic groups,
 - (c) up to 75 % by weight of at least one further comonomer monoethylenically unsaturated monomers different from (a) and (b), and is ethylene,
propylene,
vinylaromatic monomers,
vinylalcohol or its esters,
vinylpropionate,
esters of acrylic acid,
esters of methacrylic acid,
alkylene oxide,
1, ω -dialcohol or
cyclic ether and
 - (d) 0 to 5 % by weight of crosslinking comonomers
wherein component (c) is present.

15. (New) The antimicrobial composition according to claim 14, wherein the comonomer (c) is styrene, vinylacetate, vinylpropionate, ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, ethylene glycol, 1,3-propandiol, 1,4 butanediol or tetrahydrofuran.

16. (New) The composition according to claim 14, wherein the amounts of the units of the copolymer are:

- (a) 10 to 60 %,
- (b) 20 to 70 %,
- (c) 0 to 70 %, and
- (d) 0 to 5 %.

17. (New) The composition according to claim 14, wherein the composition is a liquid composition.
18. (New) A composition according to claim 17, wherein the concentrations of the components in the solution are
0.01 to 100 mmol/l periodic acid or salts thereof,
0.005 to 50 mmol/l iodide ions,
0.005 to 50 mmol/l thiocyanate ions, and
0.005 to 10 % by weight polymer or copolymer.
19. (New) The composition according to claim 14, wherein the composition further comprises another biocidal active compound.
20. (New) The composition according to claim 17, wherein the composition further comprises a surfactant or emulsifier and the liquid composition is an oil-in-water-emulsion or a surfactant based solution.
21. (New) A microbicide for skin antiseptics; antimicrobial soaps; suntans; disinfection of medical equipment; treatment of swimming pools, air-conditioning processes; sanitation of accomodation for man; chemical toilets; treatment of sewage/waste, hospital infectious waste and soil or other substances; laundry; disinfection of animal housing/stables/machinery/footwear, hatcheries, means of transport; fish farming; floors, walls, and equipment in food processing plants; or the manufacture of aseptic packaging material which comprises the composition as claimed in claim 14.
22. (New) An active component which comprises the composition as claimed in claim 14.
23. (New) The active component as claimed in claim 22, wherein the active component is used in deodorants, antibacterial skin washes, anti-acne preparations, anti-athletes foot preparations, anti-dandruff preparations, dental preparations, impregnated materials, ophthalmic preparations or sterilants.

24. (New) An antimicrobial composition comprising

- (1) a mixture of iodide anions and thiocyanate anions,
 - (2) periodic acid or a salt thereof, and
 - (3) at least copolymer comprising as units
 - (a) 5 to 100 % by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer comprising nitrogen and/or phosphorous containing groups which are selected from the group consisting of acrylamide, N-substituted H-acrylamide, nitrogen containing acrylic acid ester, N-vinylamide N-vinyl-N-methylformamide, N-vinylacetamide, N-vinyl-N-methylacetamide, N-vinyl-N-methylpropionamide, N-vinylpropionamide, N-vinylimidazole N-vinylbutylrolactam, N-vinylcaprolactam, N-vinylvalerolactam and N-vinylaurolactam.
 - (b) 0 to 95 % by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated comonomer comprising acidic groups,
 - (c) 0 to 75 % by weight of at least one further comonomer,
- and
- (d) 0 to 5 % by weight of crosslinking comonomers.

25. (New) The antimicrobial composition according to claim 24, wherein the comonomer (a) is dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate, N-vinylformamide, N-vinyl-N-methylformamide, N-vinylacetamide, N-vinyl-N-methylacetamide, N-vinyl-N-methylpropionamide, N-vinylpropionamide, N-vinylimidazole N-vinylbutylrolactam, N-vinylcaprolactam, N-vinylvalerolactam or N-vinylaurolactam.

26. (New) The composition according to claim 24, wherein the amounts of the units of the copolymer are:

- (a) 10 to 60 %,
- (b) 20 to 70 %,

- (c) 0 to 70 %, and
- (d) 0 to 5 %.

27. (New) The composition according to claim 24, wherein the composition is a liquid composition.

28. (New) The composition according to claim 27, wherein the concentrations of the components in the solution are
0.01 to 100 mmol/l periodic acid or salts thereof,
0.005 to 50 mmol/l iodide ions,
0.005 to 50 mmol/l thiocyanate ions, and
0.005 to 10 % by weight polymer or copolymer.

29. (New) The composition according to claim 24, wherein the composition further comprises another biocidal active compound.

30. (New) The composition according to claim 27, wherein the composition further comprises a surfactant or emulsifier and the liquid composition is an oil-in-water-emulsion or a surfactant based solution.

31. (New) The composition according to claim 24, wherein said copolymer further comprises N-vinylpyrrolidone.

32. (New) A microbicide for skin antiseptics; antimicrobial soaps; suntans; disinfection of medical equipment; treatment of swimming pools, air-conditioning processes; sanitation of accomodation for man; chemical toilets; treatment of sewage/waste, hospital infectious waste and soil or other substances; laundry; disinfection of animal housing/stables/machinery/footwear, hatcheries, means of transport; fish farming; floors, walls, and equipment in food processing plants; or the manufacture of aseptic packaging material which comprises the composition as claimed in claim 24.

33. (New) An active component which comprises the composition as claimed in claim 24.

34. (New) The active component as claimed in claim 33, wherein the active component is used in deodorants, antibacterial skin washes, anti-acne preparations, anti-athletes foot preparations, anti-dandruff preparations, dental preparations, impregnated materials, ophthalmic preparations or sterilants.

35. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein unit b is at least one monoethylenically unsaturated comonomer comprising an acidic group selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, vinyl sulfonic acid, vinyl phosphonic acid or phosphorous acid monovinylester and phosphorous acid mono allylester.

36. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 14, wherein unit b is at least one monoethylenically unsaturated comonomer comprising an acidic group selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, vinyl sulfonic acid, vinyl phosphonic acid or phosphorous acid monovinylester and phosphorous acid mono allylester.

37. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 24, wherein unit b is at least one monoethylenically unsaturated comonomer comprising an acidic group selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, vinyl sulfonic acid, vinyl phosphonic acid or phosphorous acid monovinylester and phosphorous acid mono allylester.